

# Contractor J. Shelton Gordon dies

A 50-year resident of Palmdale, J. Shelton Gordon, 99 - a general contractor and Realtor who spearheaded the development of Ana Verde Hills and one of the founders of the Antelope Valley Board of Trade - died Thursday in Lancaster.



**GORDON**

He and his wife, Viola, settled in the Ana Verde Hills in 1945 at El Rancho del Lago Lindo. He and his wife marked 53 years of marriage before her death in 1973. They were married Aug. 16, 1920.

Mr. Gordon assisted in organizing the AV Board of Trade in 1957 and was a director for many years.

He served as president in 1964 and was presented the organization's Distinguished Service Award in 1972.

That same year the Palmdale Board of Realtors named him "Realtor of the Year."

In 1971 and 1973, he compiled two books, featuring "Incredible Tales of Some of the South Antelope Valley Pioneers."

He was born in Chicago June 4, 1896. His family moved to California in 1900. He attended Pasadena schools and was graduated from Pasadena High School in 1916. During his school years, he was active in dramatics, Christian Endeavor and other church activities.

In 1917, Mr. Gordon became a war-work YMCA secretary and in 1918 joined the U.S. Naval Medical Corps.

Both he and his wife enrolled as medical students at the University

of Chicago in 1920. In 1923, they returned to Pasadena.

Mr. Gordon started his own general contracting business Jan. 1, 1924.

In 1931, he was a vocal advocate of the California Contractor's License Law. His license number was 183.

In 1932, he helped form the Building Contractors's Association of California and was awarded a

Lifetime State Directorship on May 29, 1968.

During World War II, he served as a construction superintendent, building military projects for the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Throughout his years in the Antelope Valley he was active in Kiwanis, the Palmdale Chamber of Commerce and the First Methodist Church.

Survivors include his daughter, Barbara Gordon Turner, and son, John Gordon Jr., eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Chapel of the Valley Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, at Palmdale United Methodist Church.

Donations in his name may be made to the "Building Our Vision Fund," First United Methodist Church in Palmdale.

## Correction

The time given in Thursday's edition for Palmdale High School's graduation ceremonies was incorrect.

Ceremonies, with admittance by invitation only, begin at 6:30 p.m. June 16.